

**ENV** On March 26, 2024, our Governor and Cabinet approved an investment to protect nearly 28,000 acres of Florida's natural lands, and link existing wildlife conservation areas. This includes the first acquisition within the Caloosahatchee-Big Cypress Corridor. Since 2019, we have committed more than \$1.25 billion to the Florida Forever Program, including \$100 million in recurring annual funding, totaling 220,000 plus acres for conservation, of which 90% is within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

- 1) 25,039 AC -the Caloosahatchee-Big Cypress Corridor (Collier and Lee Co.) ACQUIRE
- 2) 1,361 AC – Yarborough Ranch Florida Forever Project (Seminole Co.) ACQUIRE
- 3) 1,342 AC – Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever Project (Polk Co.) ACQUIRE
- 4) 8,000 AC – RFLPP – including 3,000 AC – Hear Bar Ranch CONSERVE EASEMENTS

**ENV(1)** On April 3, 2024, our Governor signed **HB 1417/SB 1638 – Funding for Environmental Resource Management (\$700 MILLION PER YEAR) Dedicated Recurring \$**

- 1) 96% of 2021 Seminole Compact revenue to DFS into the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund. The lesser of \$100 million or 26.042% to:
  - a) Florida Wildlife Corridor
  - b) Divided between DACS, FWC, and DEP for uplands management and invasive species removal.
  - c) To DEP for the Statewide Flooding and the Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan
  - d) Remainder to DEP for Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.
- 2) Creates Local Trail Management Grant Program within DEP;
- 3) Authorizes FWC to enter into voluntary agreements with landowners for env services in Corridor.
- 4) Requires Land Management Uniform Accounting Council to recommend efficient use of funds by state agencies.

**ENV(2)** **HB 7083/SB 7080 – Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund SIGN 4/3/24**

- 1) Creates Trust Fund within DFS; provides purpose, sources of funds, and disbursement.

**(1)PSAF HB 1029** -My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program SIGN 4/24/24– Created within the Department of Financial Services to provide hurricane mitigation inspections and hurricane mitigation grants to eligible condominium associations.

- 1) Grants limited to 50% of the cost of a project up to \$175,000.
- 2) Grants are matched \$2 for each \$1 provided by the association.

**(2)PSAF HB 1263/7028** – My Safe Florida Home Program SIGN 4/24/24– Revises the inspection and grant application process and eligibility criteria for inspections under the My Safe Florida Home Program.

- 1) Inspections are limited to homesteaded properties valued at or below \$700,000.
- 2) Homeowners may now submit subsequent mitigation inspection and grant applications for the same home if certain criteria are met.
- 3) Homeowners must provide those premium discounts received as a result from improvements made with grant funds.
- 4) Grant-funded projects must be completed within 1 year after grant approval, subject to a one-time 6 month extension.

- 5) Includes a non-recurring appropriation for 2024-2025 of \$200 million.  
a)

**INS(1) HB 1611 – Insurance. SIGN 5/13/24**

- 1) Allow select surplus line insurers to cover Citizens Property Insurance Corporation policies for second home, reducing Citizens' liability exposure.
- 2) Eliminate the requirement for Citizens policyholders to purchase contents insurance as part of their required flood coverage.
- 3) Prohibition on cancellation of property insurance policies: restricts the ability of surplus line insurers to cancel personal and commercial lines residential insurance policies due to unrepaired damage after a hurricane or wind-loss following a declared emergency.
- 4) Property insurance policy non-renewals; provides the Financial Services Commission with express rulemaking authority to adopt rules and forms to regulate how, and in what format, insurers will provide notice to OIR or non-renewal of more than 10,000 residential property insurance policies within a 12-month period.
- 5) Hurricane modeling: specifies that if the insurer uses a weighted average, it must provide OIR with a justification, which shows that it results in a rate that is reasonable, adequate, and fair. When the insurer uses the average of two or more models in its rate filing, the same average model must be used throughout the state.
- 6) Citizens Property Insurance Corporation: eliminates the statutory provision that allows Citizens to charge up to 50% above the established Citizens rate for policyholders who coverage was last provided by an insurer determined to be unsound or placed into receivership.
- 7) Roof Inspections: adds roofing contractor to the list of authorized inspectors that an insurer may approve to conduct the inspection of a roof for determining its remaining useful life.
- 8) Reciprocal insurers: updates the statutory chapter regarding reciprocal insurers to align it with OIR's existing authority to license and regulate other types of insurers, including significant changes to the application and acquisition process.
- 9) Data reporting: requires that the information that property insurers were reporting to the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) on a quarterly basis be reported on a monthly basis, and reported based on zip code rather than county.

**HEALTH** On March 21, 2024, our Governor signed components of the 'Live Healthy' legislative package, which bolsters Florida's health care workforce, broadens access to quality health care, and fosters innovation in the industry. Spearheaded by Senate President Passidomo, it will enhance health care across Florida by offering new training opportunities, improving access to healthcare services in rural areas, and promoting technological advancements.

**H(1) HB 1549/SB 7016 – Health Care SIGN 3/21/24.** It creates and expands training programs to develop and retain Florida's health care workforce.

**H(2) HB 1501/SB 7018 – Health Care Innovation.**

- 1) It creates health care Innovation Council within DOH. Requires the Council to create best practice recommendations and focus areas to advance health care delivery in Florida, through public meetings with healthcare stakeholders.

- 2) **Creates a revolving loan program within DOH** to provide low-interest loans to applicants to implement innovative solutions.
- 3) CFO transfers \$75 million from GR to Grants and Donations Trust Fund in DOH for 11 years, through 2034-35. **RECURRING DOLLARS Total is \$825 million over 11 years.**

**H(3)SB1758 – Individuals with Disabilities SIGN 3/21/24**

- 1) **SB** Directs the Agency for persons with Disabilities (APD) to enroll all individuals in pre-enrollment categories 3,4, and 5, in the HCBS waiver,
- 2) Appropriates **\$38.85 million in recurring funds.**
- 3) Expands category 4 to those with caregivers 60 years or older, instead of 70 r older.
- 4) Requires APD and AHCA to jointly develop a plan for a comprehensive Medicaid Home and Community-based services (HCBS) waiver focused on Medicaid clients transitioning into adulthood.

**H(4)HB 1617 – Behavior Health Teaching Hospitals.SIGN 3/27/24**

- 1) **Creates a new category of teaching hospital program within AHCA,** to advance Behavior Health Care through research and collaboration with colleges.
- 2) **AHCA will designate 4 named hospitals as behavior health teaching hospitals**
- 3) Requires AHCA to award each such hospital funds for up to 10 new residency slots and for workforce development programs.
- 4) **\$**development plans and their implementation.
- 5) Establishes Florida Center for Behavior Health Workforce (Center) within the Louis de la Parte Florida Institute for Mental Health at the U of S. Fla.
- 6) DCF will conduct a comprehensive, systematic study of the behavior health supply-and-demand relationship in Florida by January 31, 2025.

**H(5)HB 7021 – Mental Health and Substance Abuse –**

- 1) **Modifies the Baker and Marchman Acts to improve the processes for obtaining mental health and substance abuse examinations and treatment.**
- 2) Creates a more comprehensive and personalized discharge planning process.
- 3) Requires the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to prepare and publish certain reports on its website.
- 4) **\$50 million in recurring funds to DCF to implement.**

In 2023, an estimated 4.9 billion people used social media. Many experts have tied the increased use of social media in our society to the increase in rates of depression, anxiety, and stress in adolescents. Many minors are regularly exposed to pornography online.

**H(6)HB 7089/1502 –Transparency in Health and Human Services –**

- 1) Establishes standards for medical billing and health care transparency, and regulates contractual relationships between DCF and community-based child welfare lead agencies (CBCs).
  - a) Requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) to publish the costs of at least 300 shoppable services or provide an internet app. They must provide patients with an estimate.
  - b) Health plans must count shared savings incentives as medical expenses for rate development.
  - c) Hospitals and ASCs prohibited from filing an extraordinary collection action for medical debt.

- d) Establishes a new 3-year statute of limitation period for medical debt collections, beginning on date referred to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.
- e) Exempts up to \$10,000 of debtor's property from attachment.
- f) Charges DCF to develop a new CBC funding methodology for the allocation of core service funds in collaboration with the CBCs and other child welfare service providers.

**(3) PSAF** On March 25, 2024, our Governor signed HB 3 – Online Protections for Minors. It regulates social media platforms that use certain addictive features that have a certain number of daily active users younger than 16 years old who spend 2 or more hours on the platform a day.

- 1) It prohibits a minor under age 14 from entering into a contract with such platforms to become an account holder.
- 2) Minors under age 14 must terminate such contract, and platform must terminate such contracts with persons it knows or believes are under age 14.
- 3) For minors 14 or 15 years old,
  - a) Prohibits entering into a contract, unless there is parental consent.
  - b) #2 above, unless there is parental consent.
  - c) If court prohibits the parental consent provisions, the bill severs such provisions.
- 4) Platforms allows an account holder under age 16 or confirmed parent to terminate such accounts.
- 5) Platforms must permanently delete all personal information relating to terminated account, unless legal requirements to maintain.
- 6) If platforms violate applicable requirements for certain minor users, it is actionable under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, solely by the Department of Legal Affairs.
- 7) There is a private cause of action against a social media platform and a commercial entity.

**(4) PSAF** HB1545/1196 – Child Exploitation Offenses. SIGN 4/10/24

- 1) Increases the OSRC ranking for specified child exploitation offenses. By increasing the OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING of specified CHILD exploitation (OSRC), it may increase the minimum sentence to which a person convicted of such an offense may be sentenced, and the term of incarceration.
- 2) Prohibits harmful communication to a minor as a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony.
- 3) Ignorance of a minor's age or their consent may not be raised as a defense

**(5) PSAF** HB 1267 -Economic Self-sufficiency. **NOT** We gave Florida's young workers greater flexibility to earn money and save for college by reverting Florida's labor laws to the federal standards.

- 1) Revises various components of the (TANF) Temporary Assistance Needy Families, SNAP and School Readiness(SR) programs.

- a) Allows adults without a high school diploma to satisfy their TCA (temporary cash assistance) work activity requirement by participating in adult basic education or high school equivalency examination prep for at least 20 hours per week.
- b) Creates transitional case mgmt. as a transitional benefit available to families who have been transitioned off of cash assistance.
- c) requires DCF to expand mandatory SNAP Employment and Training Participation to include adults ages 18-59 who do not have children under 18 in the home.
- d) Creates the School Readiness Plus Program to provide financial assistance to families who no longer qualify for school readiness program funding.
- e) Appropriates \$23,076,259 in non-recurring funds from GR to Dept of ED.

**(6)PSAF On March 20, 2024, our Governor signed HB-1365 – Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping,** to keep our streets safe. It requires counties to ensure that homeless individuals receive the mental health and drug addiction services they need while residing in a designated location off our public streets. It is a commitment to law and order, and ensuring homeless individuals have the resources they need to get back on their feet. Government agencies and non-profits are working to help our homeless neighbors. This bill provides a framework for these groups to more efficiently and safely serve our neighbors. It also returns our parks and public spaces back to their intended uses.

- 1) Authorizes a county to designate property owned by the county or local govt to be used for homeless sleeping for up to a year.
- 2) Minimum standards for safety, security, sanitation, mental health, and substance abuse.
- 3) Some exceptions for fiscally constrained counties, except for illegal drug and alcohol use.  
Authorizes DCF to inspect such designated property.
- 4) Civil cause of action for injunctive relief by a resident, business owner, or Attorney General to bring civil action to prohibit sleeping without designating the property for that use. Includes that person to recover reasonable legal expenses.

**(7)PSAF On March 27, 2024, our Governor signed HB 621 -Property Rights. (SQUATTERS)**

- 1) It creates a limited process for the immediate removal of unauthorized persons from residential real property. Sheriff allowed to charge a fee for this service.
- 2) Provides liability immunity for Sheriff and lawful property owner for any loss to personal property.
- 3) Creates cause of action for wrongful removal.
- 4) Creates the following crimes:
  - a) Unlawfully trespassing upon a residential property and causing at least \$1000 in damages.
  - b) Using a false document purporting to be a valid lease or deed is now a first-degree misdemeanor.
  - c) Fraudulently listing for sale or lease residential property without possessing an ownership right or leasehold interest in the property is a 1<sup>st</sup> degree felony.

**(8)PSAF HB549 – THEFT SIGN 4/9/24**

- 1) Reduces the Threshold value for a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony theft from a dwelling to \$40 to \$750.
- 2) New offenses
  - a) Grand theft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, punishable as a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony, if property \$750 or more.
  - b) Grand theft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, punishable as a second degree felony, if stolen property is taken from more than 20 dwellings.
  - c) Theft of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree; if the thief has one prior theft conviction, it is moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony.
- 3) Retail theft
  - a) Prohibits a person from acting in concert with 5 or more persons, punishable as a third-degree felony.
  - b) Prohibits a person from acting in concert with 5 or more persons, and solicits the participation of another person using social media platform, punishable as a second-degree felony.
- 4) Amends the aggregation criteria for specified retail theft offenses.

**(9)PSAF Governor signed on April 12, 2024. HB75/SB184 -Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders**

- 1) A violation for resisting an officer without violence is a first-degree misdemeanor.
- 2) A violation for resisting an officer with violence is a third-degree felony.
- 3) Reclassifying misdemeanor or felony to the next highest degree, for assault, battery, and aggravated assault or battery when a person commits it upon a first responder.
- 4) Creates a “halo” of 25 ft around a first responder, to prohibit a person from approaching a first responder after receiving a verbal warning. A violation of this prohibition is a second degree misdemeanor, punishable by 60 days in county jail and a \$500 fine.

**(10)PSAF HB1181 - Juvenile Justice SIGN 4/29/24**

- 1) Amends several states statutes relating to the Dept of Juvenile Justice, the juvenile justice system, and juvenile firearm possession and use.
  - a) requires any juvenile in court and committed to DJJ program for an offense involving a firearm be placed on conditional release for one year.
  - b) In addition, the court may revoke or suspend the juvenile’s DL for up to one year.
  - c) requires a court, if a juvenile previously received a withhold of sentencing of delinquency for committing specified offenses, to sentence a juvenile delinquent to a DJJ residential program.

**HB 611 – Public Deposits – Did not pass, amended onto HB 989**

- 1) Allows state-chartered and federally-chartered credit union to become a (QPD) qualified public depository. ADDED TO HB 989.

**HB 989 – Chief Financial Officer**

- 1) The bill make changes to various laws related to the CFO and programs in which the CFO has a role, including the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR).

- 2) Language from HB 611 was amended on the House Floor, after failing to pass as a stand alone bill. It Credit Unions the right to accept Public Deposits (from local government entities). It benefits local governments, because Credit Union are exempt from Federal Income Taxes, allowing them to quote higher interest rates to their customers than Community Banks.

**PRE(1) HB 1537 – Vacation Rentals NOT SIGNED XXXX HOPE GOVERNOR VETOES**

- 1) Adds to state preemption of public lodging and public food service, to include “licensing” regulations.
- 2) Local govt can:
  - a) amend regulations to be less restrictive, and comply with local regulations.
  - b) implement local vacation rental registration program
  - c) charge reasonable fee per unit to process registration
  - d) fine operators up to \$500
  - e) file and foreclose on a lien
  - f) suspend registrations
  - g) revoke or refuse to renew registrations
- 3) preempts to state the regulation of advertising platforms
  - a) platform users must provide license and registration in the VR listing
  - b) platforms must collect and remit taxes
  - c) platforms must adopt anti-discrimination policy
- 4) DPBR must create and maintain a VR license information system, to allow local govt and platforms to verify registration status of a VR.
- 5) Does not supersede the authority of condos, cooperatives, or HOAs to restrict the use of their properties.
- 6) DBPR gets 9 new full-time equivalent positions with total salary of \$513,417 and receives the following: (\$4,321,9010 from 2 Trust funds)
  - a) Appropriation of \$327,170 recurring and \$53,645 non-recurring FROM Hotel and Restaurant Trust Fund.
  - b) Appropriation of \$645,202 recurring and \$3,295,884 non-recurring from the Administrative Trust Fund.

**PRE(2) HB 1647 – Local Regulation of Nonconforming and Unsafe structures SIGN 3/22/24**

- 1) Creates the “Resiliency and Safe Structures Act”, which allows demolition of certain buildings under certain conditions.
- 2) Preempts local govt from preventing the demolition of a structure seaward of the ‘coastal construction control line’, except for public safety, and under certain conditions.
- 3) Local govt must authorize replacement structures to be built to max height and overall building size authorized by local development regulations.
- 4) Provisions do not apply to single-family homes, building on National Register of Historic Places
- 5) On a barrier island in a municipality under 10,000 people meeting certain conditions.
- 6) Provisions may be applied retroactively.

**PRE(3) CS/CS/HB 433 – Employment Regulations; GOV signed 4/12/24**

Currently there are no specific federal or state laws that provide heat exposure protections for outdoor workers.

- 1) Regarding heat exposure protections, the bill prohibits local govt from
  - a) Requiring an employer or contractor contracting with local govt, to meet or provide NEW heat exposure requirements not required by state or federal law.
  - b) Giving preference. e in a competitive solicitation to an employer based on the employer's
- 2) Regarding Florida's wage and employment benefits law, the bill prohibits local govt from
  - a) Seeking to control or affect the wages or employment benefits provided by its vendors, contractors, and service providers doing business with the local govt.
  - b) Awarding preferences on the basis of wages or employment benefits by its vendors, contractors, etc.
- 3) Removes local govt's ability to require a minimum wage for certain employees under the terms of a contract.
- 4) Prohibits local govts from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, etc. that regulates scheduling, including predictive scheduling.

**PRE(4) HB 1597 – Ethics; NOT SIGNED**

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees establishes ethical standards for public officials.

- 1) Creates statutory timeframes for completion of investigations by the Commission.
- 2) Requires ethics complaints be based on personal knowledge or info other than hearsay.
- 3) Requires super-majority 2/3 of Commission members present at meeting to reject or deviate from stipulation or settlement recommendation of Commission counsel.
- 4) Maximum civil penalty for a public officer lobbying to be same as those for other violations.
- 5) Terms of Commissioners limited to 2 total terms, up from 2 consecutive terms.
- 6) Adds candidates for public office to those authorized to recover attorneys fees, etc., for defending against a maliciously filed ethics complaint.

ED – Innovative solutions to create new educational opportunities for Florida students.

**ED(1) HB 1403/7043 – School Choice SIGN 5/13/24**

- a) Expands eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) programs to the dependent children of an active duty member of the US Armed Forces in Florida.
- b) Increases the growth rate of the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities (FES-UA) cap from 3 percent to 5 percent, plus an additional 1% based on demand.
- c) Establishes scholarship apps and renewal deadlines and prioritizes disbursing funds to renewal students prior to new students.
- d) Authorizes FTC funds to be used for full-time private school scholarships year-round.



- e) Public school students receiving the New Worlds Scholarship remain eligible for transportation scholarships under the FES and FTC scholarship programs.

**ED(2) HB 1361 -EDUCATION** SIGN 5/13/24 -- To facilitate early education intervention, it expands the eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship to include students in Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program who exhibit substantial deficiencies in reading or mathematics.

- a) Requires schools to notify parents how to request and receive a scholarship
- b) Repeals individualized reimbursements and requires parents to use the administrator's system to make direct purchases.
- c) Designates the UF Lastinger Center for Learning as the administrator for the New Worlds Reading Initiative, and codifies the Center into law.
- d) Establishes the New Worlds Tutoring Program, to support school districts and schools in improving kindergarten. The Center may award grants for stipends.
- e) Center is allowed to collaborate with school districts and award grants to expand AI.
- f) Appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds from GR for the grant program.

**ED(3) HB 7039/7002 – Deregulation of Public Schools** SIGN 5/13/24 – Advances efficiency for school board administrative processes.

- a) Follow a single process that focuses on open meetings with public input.
- b) Removes the obligation for school boards to provide surplus property for charter schools on the same basis as other public schools.
- c) Removes requirements to provide parents with an economic security report.
- d) Removes to provide an annual report on district guidance services.
- e) Provides flexibility for school boards to use federal funds.
- f) School boards can plan for facilities in accordance with local long-term needs.
- g) Removes requirement to conduct an educational plant survey.
- h) School districts must provide access to emergency shelters subject to local emergency management plans.
- i) Removes the caps on amount they may use for school board vehicles and property insurance.

**ED(4) HB 7025/7004 Education** SIGN 5/13/24

- a) Eliminates unnecessary testing by reducing the administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system in the summer VPK from 3 times to 2 times per year.
- b) Strengthens parent's role in retention and remediation decisions in K through Grade 2.
- c) Allows State Board of Ed to provide a school implementing a turnaround plan additional time to implement under certain cases.
- d) Allows a 16 year-old to terminate school enrollment to take the GED assessment without an extraordinary exception.
- e) Removes in the Florida College System certain obsolete SBE requirements including certain tuition and out-of-state fees, identifying performance metrics, and developing a plan that specifies goals.

**AG(1) HB 1071/1084 – DACS** SIGN 5/2/24

- 1) Preempts the regulation of electric vehicle charging stations to the state and prohibits local govt from enacting or enforcing such regulations.
- 2) Expiration date for pest control operator's certificate, and requirement for renewal.
- 3) Department can appoint a tax collector to accept new, renewal, and replacement license applications for FDACS.
- 4) Allows tax collector to collect certain fees and services for concealed weapon or firearm licenses for FDACS.
- 5) Revises that charitable organizations, sponsors, professional fundraising consultants, and professional solicitors must require more information including street addresses.
- 6) A person who solicits funds within a public transportation facility must get written permit that includes street addresses, displayed on person's badge.
- 7) Prohibits and creates penalties for the manufacture for sale, hold or offer for sale, or distribution of cultivated meat in Florida, creating a violation to knowingly violate.
- 8) Changes motor vehicle repair shop registration applications, and requires registration fee for each location.
- 9) Revises the definition of 'HEMP EXTRACT' to mean hemp containing more than trace amounts of a cannabinoid which is intended for ingestion or inhalation but which does not contain controlled substances.
- 10) Provides criminal penalties for trespassing on land classified as commercial agricultural property.
- 11) Provides that a student's participation in a 4-H or FFA activity is an excused absence from school.

**AG(2) HB 1613 – Hemp NOT SIGNED**

- 1) Revises definition of Hemp such that hemp extract products may not exceed .3% total Delta-9 THC concentration, or may not exceed 5 milligrams per serving and 50 milligrams per container. It may not contain any controlled substances, such as Delta-8 THC.
- 2) Revises the definition of "attractive to children" which expands products which are prohibited.
- 3) Appropriates \$2 million to FDLE for purchase of testing equipment necessary to implement the bill.

An estimated 200,000 seasonal farmworkers travel to work in Florida. The DOH currently issues 700 permits in 33 counties for 34,000 seasonal farmworkers to live in adequate housing. The federal government authorizes farmers to hire seasonal workers from foreign countries through the H2A visa program. Farmers must provide no cost housing for H2A workers.

**AG(3) HB 1051 – Housing for Agricultural Workers. NOT SIGNED**

- 1) The bill defines "legally verified agricultural worker". It defines "housing site" to mean the totality of development supporting authorized housing.
- 2) The bill prohibits a government entity from adopting or enforcing any legislation to inhibit the construction or installation of such seasonal housing on land classified as agriculture.

- 3) The bill specifies that a housing site may not continue to be used and can be required to be removed under certain circumstances
- 1) **\$91,207 in recurring** funds from GR, and one full-time employee to implement the program.

**(11)PSAF CS/HB 81/366 – Civil Penalties under the Gas Safety Law of 1967 GIFT 5/13/24**

The Pipeline Safety Act allows states to assume authority over interstate gas pipelines, subject to annual certifications with PHMSA. In Florida, the PSC is certified by PHMSA to inspect and endorse intrastate gas pipelines. The bill increases the maximum monetary penalties for any violation of the Gas Safety Law by mirroring the PHMSA. Otherwise, the PSC would risk a reduced certification and removal of the PSC’s enforcement capabilities.

**TAX HB 7073 -TAXATION SIGN 5/2/24**

- 1) Impact **\$647.3 million non-recurring TAX SAVINGS; \$28.6 million recurring TAX SAVINGS**
- 2) Cuts the business tax rent to **2% from 4.5% beginning June 1, 2024.**
- 3) Creates a **corporate income tax credit for corporations that employ individuals with disabilities.** Maximum per company is \$10,000 per year, based on \$1 /hr worked, up to \$1,000 per employee. Unused credits good for 5 years. Limit \$5 million per fiscal year, for 5 years.
- 4) The Strong Families Tax Credit Program was created in 2021. Donations in lieu of corporate income taxes. **Annual cap increased from \$20million to \$40 million per fiscal year.**
- 5) Expands the ad valorem tax benefits for renewable energy source devices to include facilities used to capture and convert biogas to RNG.
- 6) To tax tangible personal property of an electric utility, construction work in progress is not deemed substantially completed unless all permits or approvals have been received.
- 7) Under **documentary stamp taxes, those levied on promissory notes, nonnegotiable notes, and written obligations may not exceed \$2450.**
- 8) The bill increases to 100% the % of revenue from the sales tax collection enforcement diversion program that is provided to FACIL to administer the JP-PAS Program, from 75%. This program is administered by the FI Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) and provided participants with reimbursement of expenses for a PCA (personal care attendant) services, up to \$2,160 per month. Currently generates \$3.6 million per year.
- 9) **In 2023, we distributed \$27.5 million of GR to the Florida Agricultural Promotional Campaign Trust Fund, for the promotion of Florida thoroughbred breeding and racing in Florida for two years. This bill extends for 2 more years.**
  - b) \$5 million Florida Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association Inc.
  - c) \$5 million to Tampa Bay Downs, Inc.
  - d) \$15 million to Gulfstream Park Racing Ass.
  - e) \$2 million to GPRA

\$500,000 to TPD

On March 15, 2024, our Governor signed 4 bills to combat illegal immigrants and protect our citizens in Florida.

**(12) PSAF HB 1449 -Reclassification of Criminal Penalties.** It enhances penalties for a crime committed by an individual who returns to the USA illegally after an initial deportation.

- 1) A 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony, up to 5 years in prison, after deportation will be charged as a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony, up to 15 years in prison.
- 2) A 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony, after deportation will be charged as a 1<sup>st</sup> degree felony, up to 30 years in prison.
- 3) A 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felony, after deportation will be charged as life felony.

**(13) PSAF HB 1451 – Identification Documents.** It prevents counties and municipalities from accepting ID cards issued to illegal aliens by other jurisdictions.

- 1) Florida already prohibits local jurisdictions from issuing ID cards or Drivers Licenses to illegal immigrants.

**(14) PSAF HB 1589 – Driving Without a Valid Driver’s license.**

The bill increases penalties on individuals who operate a vehicle without a license.

- 1) Increases the maximum sentence from 60 days in jail to one year for two or more offenses, and a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 days in jail for 3 or more offenses.

**(15) PSAF HM 7065 – Designation of Drug Cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations.** It urges the US Secretary of State to designate those that operate at our southern border as Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

**HB 1329 – Veterans**      **NOT SIGNED**

- 1) Creates the Florida Veterans’ History Program within the Division of Arts and Culture.
- 2) Expands the employment outreach, marketing, and support services activities of Veterans Florida.
- 3) Revises the duties of Veterans Florida to administer the Veterans Program.
- 4) Revises the membership and appointment process for its governing board.
- 5) Requires middle and high school students to receive instruction on the history and importance of Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day.

Bills that did not pass

HB 721 – Harassment of Election Workers

HB 7075 – Tangible Personal Property Taxation

HB 1379 – Human Trafficking

SESSION 2024 SUPPLEMENTAL SIGNED BILLS 052823

- 1) PSAF HB1415/1712 – Peer Support for First Responders SIGN 3/22/24
  - a) Florida law recognizes the right to confidentiality for peer support communication between first responders.
  - b) Amends definition to include correctional officers and probation officers as first responders, for the purpose of peer support communications.
- 2) PSAF HB485/1286 – Return of Weapons and Arms Following an Arrest
  - a) Requires certain weapons and firearms taken during an arrest to be returned within a certain time.
  - b) Authorizes sheriff or chief of police to develop procedures to ensure such timely release.
  - c) Removes requirement of a trial court judge to order such return of firearms.
- 3) PSAF HB549/1222 – Theft SIGN 4/9/24
  - a) Reduces minimum threshold for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Grand Theft
  - b) Creates new offense – Grand theft offenses
  - c) Enhanced penalties for committing first degree theft and having certain previous convictions.
  - d) Revises no. of thefts required within a certain timeframe to aggregate retail theft acts.
  - e) Prohibits group retail theft
  - f) Prohibits using social media platform to solicit people to do group theft
- 4) PSAF HB305/312 – Offenses Involving Children SIGN 4/10/24
  - a) Increases max age of child victim of specific acts whose statements may be admissible.
  - b) Requires that first offense of specified sex trafficking offenses involving minors requires defendant to be designated sexual predator.
- 5) PSAF SB1224/185 – Protection of Children and Victims of Crime
  - a) Requires Statewide Guardian ad Litem and circuit guardian ad litem offices to participate to develop a state plan.
  - b) Requires the court to appoint a guardian ad litem ASAP;
  - c) Requires parental consent providing info to GAL
  - d) Requires court to appoint GAL to represent a child in certain circumstances.
- 6) PSAF HB1235 – Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders SIGN 4/10/24
  - a) Revises reporting requirements
  - b) Specifies criteria applicable for removal of status for certain persons
  - c) Revises registration requirements
  - d) Revises provisions relating to verification;
  - e) Revises penalties
- 7) PSAF HB601/576 – Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers SIGN 4/12/24
  - a) Authorizes county sheriffs to establish civilian oversight boards, to review sheriff's office policies.
  - b) Preempts a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing certain ordinances, or civilian oversight of law enforcement agency investigations.

- c) Revises base salary for sheriffs
  - d) Authorizes a municipal police department chief to establish a civilian oversight board to review their policies.
- 8) **PSAF SB264/1349** – History and Instruction of Political and Socio-economic systems. SIGN 4/17/24
- a) Requires students to receive instruction on history of Communism;
  - b) Requires DOS to recommend to Legislature how to create a museum of Communism history;
  - c) Creates Institute for Freedom in Americas at Miami-Dade College;
  - d) Renames Adam Smith Center as Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom and revises its goals.
- 9) **PSAF HB1317/1016** –Patriotic Organizations SIGN 4/18/24
- a) Authorizes school districts to allow representatives of patriotic organizations to:
    - 1) Speak to students
    - 2) Distribute certain materials
    - 3) Provide opportunities for certain displays
    - 4) Provide time and date to do the above in school buildings
- 10) **PSAF SB994/1045** – Student Transportation Safety SIGN 5/17/24
- 1) Revises signage on rear of school bus indicating the use of bus infraction detention system;
  - 2) Requires law enforcement to send notice of violation to car owner.
  - 3) Certain civil penalties must be remitted to participating school district.
- 11) **PSAF HB275/340** – Offenses Involving Critical Infrastructure SIGN 5/20/24
- 1) Criminal penalties for tampering with critical infrastructure resulting in specific damages;
  - 2) Criminal penalties for trespass upon critical infrastructure
  - 3) Criminal penalties for tampering with specific electronic devices or networks of critical infrastructure, including electric power generation, natural gas production or transmission, a railroad, water treatment or pump station, seaport, radio or tv stations, military bases, dams or water control structure.

## ENHANCED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR MOBILE RESPONSE TEAMS HAS DEADLINE 052724

The Live Healthy Act was signed into law on March 21, 2024. It includes some exciting new provisions to enhance and expand Florida's Mobile Response Teams (MRTs). These teams are a proven critical component of the crisis care continuum for people with behavior disorders. They provide 24/7 on-demand, multidisciplinary behavior crisis intervention services in homes, schools, emergency departments, etc.

The Florida Legislature since 2018 has made wise policy choices to invest \$millions in state general revenue to support MRTs, they have left millions in federal dollars on the table. Specifically, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides states a new option to draw down federal Medicaid dollars for MRTs at an 85% matching rate, as opposed to normal 60%. This has been available since 2022. As of November 2023, 13 states have obtained federal approval, and 28 states have adopted or plan to adopt. In 2024, the Florida Legislature took action.

The Live Healthy Act specifically directs AHCA to seek federal approval to access these funds. It also appropriates \$11.5 million in recurring general revenue funds to enhance MRTs for crisis diversion.

- 1) Provides a framework for development of general MRTs, which is authorized to expand coverage beyond the child, adolescent, and young adult (<=25) groups. DCF is charged with establishing minimum standards for current MRTs and creating a structure for general MRTs.
- 2) Provide triage and rapid crisis intervention within 60 minutes.
- 3) Provide access to evidence-based services responsive to the needs of the individual and their families.
- 4) Provide screening, assessment, early identification, and care coordination
- 5) Provide confirmation that the individual receiving the MRT service was connected to a service provider, and prescribed medication if needed.

A private analysis has projected that Florida could generate more than \$100 million annually by taking up the ARPA state option, and the \$11.5 million GR appropriation could generate an additional \$65 million annually with the enhanced match.

Under ARPA, the enhanced 85% match will end March 31, 2027. The Live Healthy Act directs AHCA and DCF to coordinate on educating MRT providers on the process to enroll as a Medicaid provider. The Florida Legislature must consult and seek recommendations from managing entities, managed care plans, hospitals, schools, law enforcement, and people with disabilities.

## GOVERNOR DESANTIS AT FLORIDA HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION 052324

Governor DeSantis has signed 207 bills passed in 2024 session, leaving 27 waiting approval and 77 bills waiting to be presented to the Governor.

Ten years ago 77,000 students were homeschooled. Today more than 155,000 are homeschooled. Families are taking advantage of the various school choice programs available. Families have same access to accelerated programs and interscholastic activities at local high schools. Florida allows students to transfer credits from home education to public education with no speed bumps, guaranteeing the child is placed at the appropriate academic level.

In 2023, the Legislature created the Personalized Education Program, which allows students not enrolled full-time in public or private school the opportunity to participate in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.